

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPOINTS NEW JUDGE**  
Deana Seymour New Memphis Judge for the Court of Workers' Compensation Claims

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation announces the appointment of Deana Seymour as a trial judge on the Court of Workers' Compensation Claims. Ms. Seymour will sit in Memphis after her April 5, 2017 swearing-in.

Currently one judge sits in Memphis: the Honorable Jim Umsted, who will be retiring the first week of April. Ms. Seymour's position is new.

Ms. Seymour is a partner at Rainey, Kizer, Reviere and Bell, PLC in its Jackson office, where she concentrates in workers' compensation and tort litigation. Ms. Seymour brings 27 years of experience practicing law to the bench. She earned her J.D. with honors from the University of Tennessee in 1990 and her bachelor's in public administration with highest honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1987. Ms. Seymour is a member of the Tennessee and Jackson-Madison County Bar Associations, as well as the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association and the Defense Research Institute. She will bring valuable volunteer experience from her previous involvement in the Board of Directors for Jackson's Downtown Development Corporation and as a Girl Scout troop leader and Sunday school teacher.



Abbie Hudgens, Administrator of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, selected Ms. Seymour from recommendations from the Workers' Compensation Interview Committee. The Committee is composed of representatives of employees, employers and the legal community from all three grand divisions of the state.

Administrator Hudgens said, "I am pleased to make this appointment. Ms. Seymour's experiences and commitment to providing the highest quality court system for workers' compensation in Tennessee made her an outstanding candidate for judge."

She continued, "We will miss Judge Umsted and his wealth of knowledge about workers' compensation. He has made many contributions to the work and life of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

For information about the Court of Workers' Compensation Claims, visit [tn.gov/workforce/topic/wc-court-of-wc-claims](http://tn.gov/workforce/topic/wc-court-of-wc-claims).